

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending

Dec. 31st, 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of

The Hoole Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to hand in my report upon the Sanitary state of the District during the year 1905, and I must congratulate you upon its favourable character.

The Hoole Urban District, which is a suburb of the City of Chester, is almost entirely residential in character, the population consisting of Railway Employees, Nursery men, Clerks, Artizans, Commercial Travellers, and many persons who during the day are engaged commercially or professionally in Liverpool and Chester.

The house accommodation for the working classes is fully adequate for the needs of the District, there being a large number of well built cottages, arranged in excellent order, with ample space between. The streets into which they are arranged are all well kept and lighted.

The erection of new houses has been thoroughly supervised by Mr. Horace Davies the Council's Building Surveyor. No action has as yet been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

The estimated population in the year 1905 was 5500, including 423 in the Chester Union Workhouse, which is situated in this Urban District, so that the population of Hoole Proper, estimated to the middle of 1905 was 5077.

Death Rate. During the year there were 53 deaths registered, which in an estimated population of 5077 is equal to a rate of 10.4 per 1000. This is 3.5 per 1000 lower than the average for the last

ten years, and with the exception of the year 1902, when it was also 10.4, it is the lowest death rate that has been recorded for many years. Of the 53 deaths recorded, 13 were under 1 year, and 10 were over 65 years of age. Nine of the deaths were certified as due to Phthisis, a very high proportion and I should again like to emphasize the importance of giving every possible encouragement to the Voluntary Notification of Phthisis in the District, and the disinfection after death of all infected apartments. There were two deaths from Measles, which were the only deaths from Zymotic Disease, as against 13 in the year 1904. There were six deaths from Pneumonia, four from Diarrhoea, and two from Cancer. The four deaths from Diarrhoea occurred in children under the age of 1 year.

Birth-Rate.

The number of Births registered in the District during the year was 137, nearly 5 below the average for the past 10 years. The Birth-rate 26.9 is very much lower than the average for the past ten years, viz., 33.34. Of the 137 births recorded, 69 were males and 68 females.

Inquests.

There were five inquests held during the year. The first in January upon two boys who fell into a pond and were accidentally drowned. The second was held in February at the Workhouse upon the body of a woman aged 69, who died from Cirrhosis of the Liver, accelerated by the fracture of her collar-bone. The third was on the infant son of a Labourer, death being due to shock, the result of scalds received by falling into a dish of milk pudding. The fourth was on the infant daughter of a clerk, death being probably due to Asphyxia produced by spasm of the glottis. The fifth was held in June on the body of an infant who died from Inflammation of the Bowels, due to neglect, but not criminal neglect.

Infectious Diseases.

There were only 10 cases of Infectious Disease reported, as against 30 in the year 1904. Four of the cases occurred in the Chester Union Workhouse. There was no case reported in

Hoole Proper during the first six months of the year. Five of the cases were Scarlet Fever, four Erysipelas, and one Diphtheria. Of the five cases of Scarlet Fever, four were removed to the Chester Isolation Hospital at Sealand, as was also the case of Diphtheria. Two of the four cases of Erysipelas reported were also removed to the Isolation Hospital, making in all a total of seven removed out of ten notified. There was no case of Small Pox, nor of Enteric Fever.

New Houses. 57 new houses were erected during the year, but by far the greater proportion of these were not occupied until the last Quarter of the year.

Public Park and Recreation Ground. The Park has been kept in splendid order, and has been well patronised by the children and residents in the District.

Milkhouses. There are twelve milkhouses in the District, which have been strictly supervised and have always been found in a satisfactory sanitary state.

Slaughter-Houses. There are no Slaughterhouses in the District.

Factory and Workshop Act. The only premises coming under the above Act are two bake-houses, which have been carefully supervised, and are in a perfectly clean and satisfactory condition.

Notices sent. The notices for the abatement of nuisance, which were sent out by the Inspector during the year, were all satisfactorily attended to.

Scavenging. This work is done daily by men in the employ of the Council. The streets are kept clean, and are well watered whenever necessary. The ashpits are emptied regularly every week.

Drainage. The drains of the District empty into the Chester system. They are all in good order, and are regularly flushed.

Water Supply. The District is supplied with water by the Chester Waterworks Co., except in the case of Pipers Ash, a small out-lying Hamlet, which is supplied with water from two wells.

Privies. There is not a single privy in the District, except in the outskirts, where there are no water mains.

Classified
Forms.

I enclose the tables of mortality and sickness, required
by the Local Government Board.

CHESTER UNION WORKHOUSE.

Death Rate. 80 deaths occurred in a population of 423, equal to a
rate of 118.2 per 1000.

Births. Nineteen Births were registered as having taken place
in the Chester Union Workhouse during the year, ten being
males and nine females.

Infectious
Diseases. There were four cases of Infectious Disease reported
during the year, one being Diphtheria and three Erysipelas.
The case of Diphtheria and two of the cases of Erysipelas
were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Other Diseases. 468 cases of disease of the usual workhouse type were
treated in the Institution, during the year.

F. J. Rutt

Medical Officer of Health.

Jan. 31, 1906.

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